applications, one of which, JP 10-131483, was filed on May 14, 1998. The invention, as claimed, is supported by that Japanese application.

Sasaki was filed on March 29, 1999, after this earlier priority date. Accordingly, Sakai is not prior art as to the present invention. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.55(a)(4), a sworn English translation of the priority document is submitted herewith.

Since <u>Sasaki</u> is not available as prior art against the claimed invention, favorable consideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the document listed on the enclosed Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant form (PTO/SB/08A).

The cited references include complete English translations of several Japanese references already of record, those references having been cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on January 12, 2005. Also cited herewith are the following U.S. patents, which are English language counterparts to other Japanese references cited in that earlier Information Disclosure Statement:

U.S. Patent No.	Counterpart Japanese Reference
6,293,652	JP 10-119,257 and JP 10-286972
6,102,533	JP 10-119,257 and JP 10-286972
6,250,750	10-109427

In reviewing the January 12 Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, it was noted that the box specifically authorizing payment of the fee under 37 C.FR. § 1.17(p) inadvertently was not checked. Nevertheless, it is believed that fee has been paid, since the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement included a blanket deposit account authorization for all fee deficiencies. Should that fee still be owed, authorization is given herein to charge the fee to deposit account 19-4709.

U.S. patent no. 6,250,750 has not been cited in the accompanying PTO/SB/08A form because the reference was cited in the Office Action mailed on May 14, 2002.

The Fee and Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) for that prior Information Disclosure Statement are believed to cover the submission of these papers.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to confirm that these references have been considered by returning to Applicants' undersigned attorney a copy of the accompanying Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant form (PTO/SB/08A).

CONCLUSION

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place this application in condition for allowance and submit that the claims are in condition for allowance. If for any reason, however, the Examiner should deem that this application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below to resolve any outstanding issues prior to issuing a further Office Action.

In view of the foregoing revisions and remarks, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment After Final Rejection and submit that entry of this Amendment will place the present application in condition for allowance. It is further submitted that entry of this Amendment can be approved by the Examiner consistent with Patent and Trademark Office practice, since the changes it makes should not require a substantial amount of additional work by the Examiner. It is believed that the changes presented in this Amendment either address matters of form or issues that the Examiner has previously considered.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee now or hereafter due in connection with the prosecution of this application to Deposit Account No. 19-4709.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Schaeffer

Registration No. 32,716

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PTO/SB/08a (08-03) Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

Complete if Known

Application Number 09/312,073

Filing Date May 13, 1999

First Named Inventor Minoru Usui, et al.

Art Unit 2863

Examiner Name Michael P. Nghiem

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Attorney Docket Number 448563/0163

			U. S. PATENT [
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number Number-Kind Code ^{2 (f known)}	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		^{US-} 5,971,534	10-26-1999	Sasaki et al.	
		US- 6,022,103	02-08-2000	Yamaguchi	
		US- 6,102,533	08-15-2000	Nozawa, et al.	
		^{US-} 6,293,652-B1	09-25-2001	Arashima et al.	
		US-			
		U\$-			
		US-			
		US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	Foreign Patent Document Country Code ³ 'Number ⁴ 'Kind Code ⁵ (# known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		JP 63-37954	02-18-1988	Canon Inc.	English Transln.	X
	1	JP 63-176635U	11-16-1988	Canon Inc.	English Transln.	X
******************	†	JP 7-290717	11-07-1995	Citizen Watch	English Transln.	X
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*****************	1					

Examiner	Date	
Signature	Considered	

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.